

HONORING KATHERINE CLOSE, REGIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman from my district that has distinguished herself by winning the March Spelldown 2002, allowing her to advance to the 75th Annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee.

Katherine "Kerry" Close, a fourth grader from Spring Lake, New Jersey, beat 100 other students in Monmouth, Middlesex and Ocean Counties to make it to the final round of the regional spelling bee held in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Winning the bee qualified her and a guardian for a paid trip here to Washington to compete with 249 other nationwide winners who will compete in the four-day national bee beginning May 26.

Her study strategies include listening to a couple hundred words each day, then having her parents quiz her on those words. In reality, the possible words she may face can be any word in the English language, a daunting task for a nine-year old. Kerry will also be one of the few contestants her age, but insists that she is not nervous about the event.

I and all the residents of the Sixth Congressional District of New Jersey would like to once again congratulate Kerry on her achievement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the best of luck to Kerry and all her fellow spelling bee champions from around the nation as they compete at the national spelling bee championships.

HIGHWAY FUNDING RESTORATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3694 a bill to restore critically needed federal highway funds. I am a cosponsor of this important piece of legislation.

As you know, the President's budget includes a cut of nearly 27 percent or \$8.5 billion to the Federal highway program in Fiscal Year 2003. The impact of such a cut would be devastating to state and local transportation programs and to the economy in general. Every \$1 billion invested in the Federal highway program supports an estimated 42,000 jobs. A cut of the magnitude in the President's budget would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs at a time when the economy is slowly pulling out of a recession.

The Highway Funding Restoration Act increases funding for roads bridges and safety programs by \$4.5 billions in Fiscal Year 2003, the level authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Since the enactment of TEA-21, the nation's transportation infrastructure has benefitted immensely. To halt this progress by cutting funding by 27 percent would hurt communities and

the men and women whose livelihood depends on transportation-related projects.

Mr. Speaker, without the passage of this important legislation, my state of Texas will lose \$297 million dollars in Federal transportation funds. Texas simply cannot afford cuts of this magnitude. H.R. 3694 is a good piece of legislation and is supported by 317 cosponsors. I urge the adoption of this important bill and ask my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTEREY PARK DEMOCRATIC CLUB

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Monterey Park Democratic Club. Founded on May 19, 1952, the Monterey Park Democratic Club has made many achievements over the years.

One of their most important efforts has been to increase voter turn out. This has given a voice to numerous residents of Monterey Park who otherwise would not have had one. Since the 1950s, the Monterey Park Democratic Club has also sponsored and promoted several important community events, including roundtable discussions on local issues. Club members are not afraid to tackle sensitive issues like the Nuclear Freeze campaign of the 1980s, lobbying to close the nearby landfill or opposing billboard signs and gambling. Their passion and leadership is commendable. I applaud President Irv Wilner and other club leaders for their leadership.

It is clear that the Monterey Park Democratic Club has done much to enhance people's confidence in government and faith in democracy. I ask you to join me in honoring their celebration.

REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. THOMAS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join the people of Tulare County and the United States of America in thanking those peace officers who have made the supreme sacrifice while working to enforce our laws, protect our homes, and guard our lives. Events of the past year have served as a poignant reminder of the selfless dedication to duty that peace officers demonstrate every day, and those of us who served in the 105th Congress were the direct beneficiaries of this devotion, when two Capitol Hill Police Officers fell in the line of duty.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Peace Officer Memorial Service and dedication of the Peace Officer Memorial was held yesterday, May 15, 2002, in Visalia, California. This monument pays tribute to the nineteen Tulare County peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor their noble sacrifices, the people of Tulare County have come together to donate the funds need-

ed to make this lasting tribute to these brave individuals a reality.

This monument honors eight members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, three members of the California Highway Patrol, and eight members of various other law enforcement agencies located in Tulare County, including one federal officer from the National Parks Service. The Tulare County peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty are: Deputy John N. Wren, Deputy Oscar A. Beaver, Constable Robert A. Carter, Officer George Owen Barlow, Officer Norman A. Kessler, Officer Richard L. Simpson, Sergeant Charles Garrison, Officer Richard W. Smith, Deputy Ross C. Cochran, Officer John R. Ellis, Deputy Vernon L. Cox, Deputy Carlos Magana, Officer Thomas J. Schroth, Detective Monty L. Conley, Detective Joe R. Landin, Deputy Michael R. Egan, Reserve Officer Ronald Hills, Ranger James Randall Morgenson, and Officer James J. Rapozo.

In closing, I thank these and every other law enforcement officer for their sacrifices made to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

RECOGNITION OF AARON SIMMONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aaron Simmons, founder and president of TreePots, Incorporated, in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. Mr. Simmons has achieved the title of Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The West Virginia Division of the United States Small Business Administration, a leader in the promotion and growth of our state, gives this award annually.

Mr. Simmons began TreePots, Incorporated, with the idea of creating a planter to place around trees. Mr. Simmons' enterprising concept has provided a three-year corporate success for him. Mr. Simmons truly embodies the values that created the American success story: self-reliance, hard work, perseverance and optimism. I commend him for his contributions to the West Virginia economy.

Successful small businesses not only serve as the backbone of the economy, they anchor communities and promote civic pride. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Simmons' tremendous achievement as the West Virginia Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. CALVIN W. BURNETT

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay special tribute to Dr. Calvin W. Burnett, President of Coppin State College in Baltimore, Maryland. On May 17th, we will join many of Dr. Burnett's admirers in a tribute to

his 32 years of outstanding leadership at Coppin.

Dr. Burnett earned his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from St. Louis University. He was a faculty member and administrator at the Catholic University of America and Southern Illinois University prior to his tenure at Coppin.

Since becoming Coppin's president in 1970, Dr. Burnett has guided the college from a teacher education institution to a comprehensive college in a challenging urban setting. The school places an emphasis on the problems, needs, and aspirations of Baltimore City and offers instructional programs for its students to meet these needs.

Dr. Burnett is also active in many charitable and civic organizations and through his work has become a respected leader in Baltimore and the entire state of Maryland. A few of the organizations he has been associated with include the Black/Jewish Forum for Maryland; the Baltimore Area Council—Boy Scouts of America; the Metropolitan YMCA; the Walters Art Gallery; the State NAACP Jubilee Day Committee; and the State of Maryland Civil Rights Commission.

Last year, Coppin State held its first public hearing on a comprehensive strategic revitalization plan. We were encouraged when we first heard that the State of Maryland had entered into a partnership agreement with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. This particular partnership was formed to ensure equal access to higher education for all citizens. The partnership agreement, in part, calls for Coppin to implement a vision for its future that reflects an enhanced mission, campus expansion, teacher recruitment and student retention.

We are pleased that Coppin's comprehensive strategic revitalizing plan was started when Dr. Burnett was at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Dr. Burnett very best wishes as he retires from Coppin State College. His achievements will be longstanding; his career has touched the lives of thousands of students who have benefitted from his leadership.

Retirement will mean spending more time with his wife, Dr. Gretta L. Burnett, and his children and grandchildren. We are confident, however, that his commitment to Coppin and to the City of Baltimore will keep him active in many civic and educational activities. Today, we celebrate Dr. Burnett's contributions, and thank him for a job well done.

THANKS AND FAREWELL TO DR.
CHRISTINE EHRENBURG, DIRECTOR
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CHILD CARE CENTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her departure at the end of this month for a teaching position in the Empire State, we rise to thank Dr. Christine Greer Ehrenberg for her exemplary service to this House.

For the past four and one-half years, Dr. Ehrenberg has served as the Director of the

House of Representatives Child Care Center. Since 1985, the Center has provided outstanding preschool and educationally enriching care for children of Members and staff of the House, enabling parents to work free of worry about their children's welfare. We are grateful to Dr. Ehrenberg, and her dedicated staff, for making this possible, and for the many improvements which she has initiated and implemented for the Center during her tenure.

Christine is only the second director of HRCCC. When she arrived in 1997, she brought a wealth of experience in the educational field. Her direction of the Center, and her guidance to those who oversee it, have been invaluable. But we are supremely confident that the greatest beneficiaries of Christine's talents and efforts, by far, have been the children enrolled in the Center. Christine's has not always been an easy job—the events of the dreadful morning of September 11 come immediately to mind, together with the logistics of relocating the Center, once permanently to its current location, and once temporarily. But despite difficult circumstances, Christine always kept the Center on an even keel and moving in the right direction.

Through her work here, Christine has earned the respect and gratitude of dozens of House families whose children started their educational careers at the Center. We join them in thanking Christine for her tireless efforts in their behalf. We wish Christine and her husband Dale all the best as they set out for New York State. May they always look back fondly upon their days with the House, as we surely will.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, this week May 12–18, we celebrate National Transportation Week. The 2002 theme is "Transportation . . . It Keeps America Moving." National Transportation Week is an opportunity to celebrate the successes of our transportation system and to promote transportation-related careers.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Transportation Braintrust, I would like to share with you the concerns I have about our dwindling transportation workforce. I would like to point out the opportunities we have to increase the transportation workforce through initiatives underway by local universities and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

When we discuss transportation, we focus on the more tangible aspects of the system that we see everyday, like the physical road, railroad tracks, and transit systems. We often overlook the very people who make the system work—the professionals and laymen who have established the U.S. transportation system as one of the safest and most efficient in the world. Transportation and traffic engineers, transportation planners, construction and work zone crews, intelligent transportation systems specialists, and transit operators to name just

a few of the positions in a fast-paced, dynamic environment. These jobs require personnel with the skills and talent to build, operate, and maintain a vast network of systems. Guaranteeing an efficient and smoothly operating transportation system requires the best and brightest in our workforce.

Despite a recent US. News and World Report cover story that highlighted transportation engineering as one of the eight most secure jobs and the immersion of new technologies that are expanding career opportunities in the transportation industry, much of the seasoned transportation workforce is slowly disappearing. According to the Federal Highway Administration, 40 percent of the State and local transportation workforce is between the ages of 45–64. In the next 5 to 15 years, 40 to 50 percent of all transportation workers will begin to retire. An article in the July/August 2001 issue of Public Roads, entitled, Help Wanted: Meeting the Need for Tomorrow's Transportation Workforce, by Clark Martin, amply illustrates these concerns. I would like to submit the article for the record.

These statistics, compounded by an increased demand on our transportation system, amplify the need for the development of a skilled transportation workforce to manage and operate the system. We must look at increased funding for programs that ensure an expanded pool of transportation personnel as well as gender and ethnic diversity within the current and future transportation workforce.

Some programs that promote transportation jobs include: Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program; Technology Transfer Centers; National Summer Transportation Institute for Secondary School Students; Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program; Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups; and The University Transportation Centers Program.

In my district of Baltimore, Maryland, the Morgan State University Transportation Center (UTC) is making strides to meet society's needs for transportation professionals. The theme of Morgan's UTC is "Transportation: A Key to Human and Economic Development." The Center promotes transportation-related careers, and provides training and research opportunities to equip future transportation professionals with the knowledge and skills required to plan, develop and manage transportation systems. These skills include, but are not limited to, designing and implementing intermodal transportation facilities, advanced highway construction, magnetic levitation technology and smart growth community planning.

The Department of Transportation is taking a strong stand on this issue. Just this week, the DOT Modal Administrators and influential leaders in the transportation professional community attended the inaugural National Transportation Workforce Summit in Washington, D.C. The attendees participated in workshops focusing on the Workforce Pipeline, Training and Development, and Institutionalizing Workforce Development. The signing of "A Partnership for Educating, Training and Developing the Nation's Transportation Workforce" by Summit participants on May 13, 2002, was an important outcome of the meeting. The signers of the document agreed to work in partnership to: